

NETWORK PLANNING TOOL

A communications packet network is planned by the use of a planning tool. The tool comprises an input for inputting requirements of the network; and an input for determining factors which effect the passage of packet based data through the network. A modelling module determines the performance of the network based on the requirements and factors. The performance of model is compared with that of an objective comparison model. A feedback mechanism iteratively adjusts the input factors to improve the performance and maintain the network requirements. When the desired performance level is achieved, a plan of the network is output from the planning tool.